

after numberless amendments, was withdrawn and a substitute incorporating most of these amendments, with others, was offered by Mr. Nettles. This, with a few minor changes, passed the House and was sent to the Senate. That body using the Nettles Bill in its entirety almost as a basis, with a few alterations and amendments made necessary on account of the change of purpose, returned the Dispensary Act as a substitute for the Prohibition Bill and the House concurred in the same without amendment, as the time was too short to even discuss it. The Act thus hurriedly prepared became a law, as a compromise between the Prohibitionists and the temperance people, who were skeptical as to the practicability of a prohibition law. This hurry in its preparation and enactment left the law with many crudities and omissions which I will point out somewhat in detail later on.

Considering the change made in the purpose of the Act, and the lack of time to debate and digest its various provisions, it is wonderful that it has thus far stood the test of the TEMPEST OF LITIGATION. which it has occasioned. It has been in the United States Court, in our Supreme Court, and before nearly every Circuit Judge on the Bench, but without any serious roads thus far having been made on its constitutionality. Perhaps no measure passed by any Legislature of any State within the memory of man has excited such widespread comment and elicited such deep interest. This is mainly owing to the fact that it is an entirely new idea, from an American standpoint, and deals with the question of controlling the liquor traffic in a new way.

In the State the dispensary law has been and still is the one absorbing, never-ending topic of discussion, and it has produced some COMICAL ALIGNMENTS AND ALLIANCES.

In the efforts to obstruct and defeat it. Newspapers which have always fought prohibition, and those known as the organs of the whiskey ring have suddenly become strong advocates of prohibition. Prohibitionists who are so radical in their views that the uncharitable call them "cranks," have been found shoulder to shoulder with barkeepers and whiskey dealers in opposing it; and while many eminent divines have lent their aid and endorsement, others are bitter in its denunciation. The more moderate prohibitionists are delighted with it. The whiskey men are more bitter in their opposition to it than they have ever been toward prohibition.

The law went into effect July 1st, and on the night of the 30th of June every bar in the State closed its doors. The work of preparation, organization and arrangements for the control of so mammoth a business had been going on for several months. The illness of Comptroller General Ellerbe and the heavy burden of litigation which the Attorney General had to bear (my colleagues on the State Board of Control), together with the long continued illness of the State Commissioner, Mr. D. H. Traxler, developed most of this work on my shoulders; and this, together with the organization and direction of the State constabulary provided to enforce the law, has more than doubled the labors of the Executive office. It is safe to say that no member of the General Assembly, and very few others certainly not myself—ever conceived the magnitude of the undertaking; and yet, after it has been in operation four months, the ramifications, complications and ultimate growth of the business are still subjects of conjecture and wonder.

All the legal whiskey traffic has been turned into one channel, flowing to Columbia, the central distributing depot. Agricultural Hall, a large two-story building with a cellar, thus making three stories 167 feet by 35 feet has been turned into a bottling works. It is only a question of time when the erection of much larger quarters on the railroad will be necessary. Fifty-four employees, working ten hours every day, are kept busy bottling, and we find it almost impossible to keep the local dispensaries in stock, and that, too, when I think it safe to say that not more than one-half of the liquor being drunk in the State at this time has passed through the dispensary. Large quantities were purchased in advance or in anticipation of the law, going into effect, by consumers, while there is hardly a train entering the State, day or night, passenger or freight, which does not haul contraband liquor. Some of the railroads are yielding a measure of obedience to the law, but most of them openly defy it or lend their assistance to smuggling liquor into the State. The Richmond and Danville system and the South Carolina railway in particular are bending every energy to defeat the law. So much for the present conditions.

I have had prepared tables covering the operations of the State dispensary and of the county dispensaries up to the 31st of October, the end of our fiscal year. They are printed in a separate report by the commissioner. A careful examination of these figures will show the following results:

The dispensary has been more than self-sustaining, and the net profits to the State for the first four months have been \$32,198.16. The gross sales to consumers have been \$166,043.56; total expense of State dispensary, \$27,556.33; of county dispensaries, \$19,890. The three principal items of expense, as will be seen, are freights, glass bottles and the constabulary.

During the month of July twenty-nine dispensaries were running; in August thirty-nine; in September forty-seven; in October fifty-one. One has been discontinued, leaving fifty now in operation. The number of clerks to dispensers and assistants is twenty-four. The salaries of these local officers have been fixed by the State board, and range from \$1,000 to \$300 per annum. Where the magnitude of the business requires it the dispenser is given one or more assistants, but in no case is the salary more than \$1,000.

Having shown the status of the business as a business, it is not improper to make some deductions purely from a financial standpoint. Hitherto under the license system the several counties

have derived a revenue of \$100 for each license, aggregating last year for the entire State \$34,100. Of this, four counties—Charleston, Beaufort, Berkeley and Colleton—received \$57,200, leaving \$23,900 for the other thirty-one counties. The State received nothing. In the cities and towns the licensees varied, but the aggregate of all towns in the State for last year was \$134,372. It is impossible to do more as yet than give an approximation as to what revenue the State, counties and towns will derive from the change in the method of controlling the liquor traffic. It is safe to say, however, that if the towns cease their unreasonable and senseless opposition, and three-fourths of the liquor, which under any conditions will be consumed in the State, shall pass through the dispensary, the revenue of the towns will not be decreased from what it was formerly, that the counties will receive as much and the State will obtain a revenue equal at least to both of these.

But, notwithstanding this revenue is not to be despised, the law does not REST ON A REVENUE BASIS, and cannot be defended on that ground. It rests wholly on its claim to being the best method of controlling the evils which are inherent and inseparable from the immoderate use of liquors, and must stand or fall on its merits as compared with other methods of controlling the evil. When the law first went into effect, outside of the city of Charleston, there was almost a total cessation of the illicit sale; but, as time wore on, the men who have always dealt in liquors and grown rich thereby became more and more emboldened to disobey the law, mainly by the encouragement given them by the leading daily newspapers, which promised them immunity from punishment by juries, and presented the spectacle of the teachers of the people inculcating disobedience to law.

While the figures in the following table may be misleading, and will doubtless be modified by later statistics, showing the relative amount of drunkenness in like periods before and since the law went into effect, I have had the table prepared to give such data as could be obtained. It is made up of the official responses by the mayors and intendents of the cities and towns to a circular asking for information. It may be as well to remark in passing, that the principal opposition to the law is among the citizens of towns and cities, and many of them are unwilling witnesses. This is shown by the fact that out of seventy-five circulars sent to all the principal cities and towns responses were received from only thirty-three.

Report from Towns and Cities of Arrests for Drunkenness and Disorder Arising from Liquor Drinking for a Like Period Before and Since the Dispensary Law Went Into Effect.

	1912.		1913.	
	July 1st to Sept. 30th.	September.	July 1st to Sept. 30th.	September.
Seneca.	15	6	2	3
Lancaster.	15	4	2	1
McCormick.	21	14	7	4
Sumter.	50	14	4	21
Columbia.	17	10	15	14
Camden.	2	1	4	1
Union.	168	76	81	23
Greenville.	7	4	1	1
Easley.	42	8	42	12
Winnsboro.	17	3	3	2
Beaufort.	6	3	3	2
Laurens.	1	1	2	1
Johnston.	1	1	1	1
Blackburg.	1	1	1	1
Leesville.	1	1	1	1
Pickens.	1	1	1	1
Chester.	11	14	25	10
Charleston.	153	60	70	27
Orangeburg.	22	10	14	7
Spartanburg.	10	4	2	4
Summerville.	3	2	1	1
Fort Motte.	1	1	1	1
	577	251	287	131

*No record.

22 towns; 33 reported, but 11 had no arrests in either year.

I will now discuss THE LAW ON ITS MERITS.

I shall premise what I shall say by observing that the United States government considers liquor traffic a legitimate and proper source of revenue, and that it derives therefrom about \$100,000,000 annually. It will not be denied by any advocate of temperance or prohibition that it is a proper subject of taxation, and if it were proposed to remove the tax, which would inevitably reduce the cost to consumers at least three-fourths, there would be a universal howl by these two classes of citizens. The State, in the exercise of its police power for the ostensible preservation of the public health and morals has, time out of mind, required a license; and while it is true that the State derived no revenue, and sought only to restrict the traffic within the limits of such municipalities as saw fit to grant licenses, it cannot be denied that the raising of revenue to support municipal governments has been the main factor in causing licenses to be issued by the towns. It is far-fetched, unreasonable, then—hypocritical in fact—to pretend that any disgrace can attach to the revenue feature. The men who are now most loud-mouthed in this pharisaical denunciation are the strongest advocates of the license system, and have had their municipal taxes reduced thereby. On the contrary, if it can be shown that under the dispensary system there will be a reduction in the consumption of liquor, and a necessary reduction in crime and misery resulting from it, it must follow that the dispensary, without regard to the revenue feature, is a long stride forward and an improvement on the license system. I will not pretend to say that it is as good as prohibition would be, but I do say that prohibition, here or anywhere else, is impossible, and the only question is how best to regulate the traffic so as to minimize the inevitable injury to society, inseparable from the sale of liquor under any circumstances. The CLAIMS OF THE DISPENSARY TO SUPPORT,

and its superiority over any form of licensing, rest on the following grounds:

1st. The element of personal profit is destroyed, thereby removing the incentive to increase the sales.

2d. A pure article is guaranteed, as it is subject to chemical analysis,

3d. The consumer obtains honest measure of standard strength.

4th. Treating is stopped, as the bottles are not opened on the premises.

5th. It is sold only in the day time; this under a regulation of the board and not under the law.

6th. The concomitants of ice, sugar, lemons, etc., being removed there is not the same inclination to drink remaining, and the closing of the saloons, especially at night, and the prohibition of its sale by the drink, destroy the enticements and seductions which have caused so many men and boys to be led astray and enter on the downward course.

7th. It is sold only for cash, and there is no longer "chalking" up for daily drinks against pay-day. The workman buys his bottle of whiskey Saturday night and carries the rest of his wages home.

8th. Gambling dens, pool rooms and lewd houses, which have hitherto been run almost invariably in connection with the saloons, which were thus a stimulant to vice, separated from the sale of liquor, have had their patronage reduced to a minimum and there must necessarily follow a decrease of crime.

9th. The local whiskey rings, which have been the curse of every municipality in the State, and have always controlled municipal elections, have been torn up root and branch, and the influence of the barkeeper as a political manipulator is absolutely destroyed. The police, removed from control of these debauching elements, will enforce the law against evil doing with more vigor, and a higher tone and greater purity in all governmental affairs must result.

To return to the question of revenue, I announce as a self-evident proposition that there will be a maximum of benefit from the operation of the law from the standpoint of these advantages in proportion as there shall be a large revenue. In other words, the restrictions thrown around the consumption and use of liquor by the dispensary law and the benefits to arise therefrom will be in proportion as the liquor consumed is purchased at the dispensary rather than obtained from illicit sources. Some fanatical, unreasonable people cry aloud against the iniquity of a government

SHARING IN THE "BLOOD MONEY," as they term it, the tears of women and children, whose fathers, husbands or brothers are addicted to the use of whiskey. It has already been shown that any system of license, which leaves the element of personal profit untrammelled, leaves this class of consumers utterly at the mercy of the owners of those dens of vice, the saloons. Men, who are compelled to go in the daylight and get what liquor they want from a government officer and then go elsewhere to consume it will be likely to go home and be within the restraining influence of that charmed circle.

It is urged that if the State control the traffic, it should sell only at such profit as will cover expenses and no more. Is it not clear that if the price be fixed at that ratio it will act as a premium on consumption by reason of the fact that a dollar will buy more whiskey than it does now? On the other hand an equally impractical scheme is to put the price very high and make the money that is spent on liquor go only a little way. It will be found here that, as in most things in life "the middle way is the best." If the price is too high it puts a premium on the establishment of "blind tigers," on smuggling, on the illicit sale in every way, and, while the amount consumed will not be appreciably less, the indirect benefits to society arising from the revenue and by the destruction of all competition with the State are lost. Under the scale of prices fixed by the State board on whiskey now sold in South Carolina there is a handsome profit, while at the same time the liquor at retail is cheaper than it was when sold across the bar. Making allowances for the watering or other adulteration of the whiskey that was formerly consumed, a half pint bottle of dispensary whiskey that now costs 20 cents and containing five average drinks, of far superior strength, would have cost 50 cents at least from a saloon. The profit on the half pint goes to the reduction of the general tax, and the 20 cents saved to the consumer goes into his pocket for the support of his family.

It is thus seen that whiskey at retail is cheaper than when it was bought from the saloons, while at wholesale or by the gallon it is considerably higher; but the profit in its illicit sale not being very great in wholesale quantities, it is not likely that after the law has been amended in the way experience has shown to be necessary, that there will be much competition with the dispensary in wholesale quantities, by which I mean one or more gallons. It is the retailer with whom we have to deal; and he thrives on political opposition and where there is no dispensary. When swift and sure punishment shall be meted out to those who break the law, and when public opinion shall have been educated so that the

VIOLENT OPPOSITION now existing shall gradually disappear, there will be small competition with the dispensaries in the counties where they are located.

Of course it is expected that along the North Carolina border where the United States Government has been unable to suppress the "moonshine" stills, there will be more or less whiskey entering into competition, which neither pays the internal revenue tax nor the profit which the State would receive on its sale.

A question which presents itself here, and which is worthy of your serious consideration, is the disposition to be made of domestic wines, and whether it is not best to except these from the general operation of the dispensary law. As for these wines, there is not a very large product any way, and owing to the fact that the methods of manufacture are crude and oftentimes showing dense ignorance—resulting in unpalatable cordials, or giving a product lacking in that uniformity which is required in an article of commerce, we find small demand for the domestic wines which under the law we must buy. But it would be a misfortune to have the growing of grapes and the manufacture of wine, an industry just beginning to take root along the Piedmont and in other parts of the State, destroyed absolutely by the dispensary law, as very likely it will be, unless you adopt the suggestion which I now offer.

Our people are too prone to cling to old methods and neglect diversification of industries and crops, and it would be a misfortune if viticulture should be driven from the State. I would therefore strongly recommend that authority be given the State board to make contracts with all responsible grape growers to have their wine made after a certain method, to be of a certain strength and

age before it enters into consumption. Then let the product be placed on the market through the dispensary at such price as will cover the actual expense for the bottling and distributing, and leave all the profit, or nearly all of it, to go to the manufacturer or grape grower. We cannot release domestic wines from the operation of the law entirely without throwing the door wide open to all manner of abuses in having it mixed with whiskey, or made the cloak for selling whiskey. And this appears to me to be the best and fairest method of dealing with this question. We can purchase the purest and best California wine from three to ten years old at from 40 cents to \$1 a gallon; and unless instructed by the General Assembly to pursue the course I have outlined it is readily seen that the domestic product cannot enter into competition.

Now as to the question of beer I am inclined to believe that it will be in the interest of temperance to exempt it from the Dispensary law altogether, upon certain conditions, to wit: Require licenses under such stringent regulations as will ensure only men of probity and good character obtaining them. Put the beer seller under a \$5,000 bond for the strict observance of the law; the conditions of the bond to be such that whenever satisfactory proof has been adduced that he has sold anything else than beer or has broken the law in the least particular, the bond shall be forfeited in the most speedy and sure manner that the law can devise. The beer saloon can be closed at any hour the General Assembly sees proper. The point I wish to make is, that so far as we may it is good policy, and in the interest of temperance to encourage the consumption of beer as against the consumption of whiskey. Under such restrictions as I have mentioned very few men would run the risk of undertaking to sell anything else than beer. This course must be pursued or else the Legislature will have to prohibit absolutely everything of the name or nature of beer or malt liquor of any kind containing a trace of alcohol. The so-called "soft drinks," which have become so numerous since the saloons were closed, and "rice beer," especially, which has entered into consumption on the claim of being non-intoxicating, have become the screen or cloak behind which liquors of all kinds are being sold. Now as to the

ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW.

There are many omissions, oversights and mistakes in the law as it stands. It will be much better to omit the enumeration of these and incorporate such changes as experience has shown to be necessary in a bill than to amend the law by piecemeal. Such bill will be presented to you, covering in effect all the changes which experience has shown to be desirable. One feature to which I wish to direct your attention is that under the present law the punishments are too severe and the methods of securing punishment are of such a character that it will be almost impossible to convict. Grand juries will not bring in true bills, and petty juries will not find verdicts of guilty for offenses, which most men consider as not meriting such severe punishment as that now provided. It is best, in my judgment, to dispense in the administration of this law, as far as the offense for selling is concerned, with juries altogether, if it can be done, and impose the duty of trying offenders upon a special officer—a recorder or judicial trial justice—to be designated in each county, who, when satisfactory proof has been presented to him that the law has been infringed, shall have the power the same as a mayor to commit the offender to the chain gang, or, the penitentiary for thirty days, or fine him within the limit of \$50. It will be necessary also, in case it shall be found unconstitutional to punish by imprisonment without trial by jury, though I do not see how that can be, unless all our municipal charters are unconstitutional, that provision be made for a change of venue before a true bill is found. I judge from the reports of the chief constable that almost all the people of Charleston are in league against the law and determined to overthrow it. The officers of the court, the sheriff and others, charged with drawing the jury, and the trial justices are known to be friendly to ex-saloon keepers, who are defiantly continuing the sale of liquor contrary to law, and the grand jury has just thrown out cases resting on positive evidence.

One hundred and four licenses to sell whiskey and sixty-eight licenses to sell malt liquor have been issued by the internal revenue collector since July to persons in that city; and thirty-three whiskey and thirty malt licenses have been issued in other parts of the State, showing the determination of the whiskey men to continue the traffic.

When the first arrests were made in Charleston by the State constables under injunction proceedings, the constables were treated in an outrageous manner by the mob; and one of the leading business men of the city of Charleston told me to my face that if he were on the grand jury he would not vote for a true bill against the most notorious offender, Chico. It is idle then to expect conviction in that city, or true bills to be found, no matter how strong the testimony. In addition, the newspapers have heaped every possible abuse on the constables, calling them "spies," "sneaks," and other opprobrious epithets, with a view of poisoning the public mind and discrediting their evidence, although I have used due precaution and exerted myself to select as constables only men of good character, who, in their own communities, have the respect of their fellow citizens.

Desperate diseases require heroic remedies, and the General Assembly may as well understand that the enforcement of this law in some parts of the State, and especially in Charleston, Columbia, Greenville, Spartanburg, Beaufort and Sumter, will require some special legislation. It is against the municipal ordinances to sell whiskey without license in every town in the State, but the police in the cities as a rule stand idly by and see the ordinances broken every day; are participants criminals in the offense, or

ACTIVE AIDERS AND ABETTERS of the men who break it. As soon as a constable arrives in town he is spotted by them and reported to those who run the illicit saloons.

Under the provision of the dispensary act, one-half of the revenue of the local dispensaries over and above the expenses goes into the treasury of the municipality where they are located. I see no remedy for the conditions of affairs existing in Charleston and Columbia except to provide for a system of metropolitan police, divorcing the control of the police force absolutely from politics and placing it in the hands of a commission, who shall appoint, direct and remove such members

of the force as will not enforce the law. I asked the mayor of Charleston, with whom I had a conference, to have the police aid me in repressing and uprooting the illicit sale of whiskey, but he declined on the ground that that duty had been imposed on the State constables.

Of the \$20,000 which have been spent for constables during the four months since the law went into effect, about one-half has gone to pay constables who have been in Charleston making arrests and trying to suppress the illicit sale of whiskey. With the two main cities of the State offered by an efficient force of police in sympathy with the law, or whether in sympathy or not, afraid to lose their places if they fail to do their duty, the expense of constables would be reduced at least one-half and the backbone of opposition would be broken. In the other places I have mentioned, and in fact throughout the State, if the power is given the Governor to require the police of the various municipalities to enforce the law, and to remove and replace them if they fail to enforce it, there would be a still further reduction in the expense of constables. Either this should be done or it be left with the State board of control to designate such cities and towns as shall have none of the income from the sale of liquors at the dispensary, and let the revenue which now goes to the town pay for the expense of enforcing the law. If the citizens of the towns insist on encouraging disobedience to the law, let them pay the extra expense which the State incurs in order to enforce it.

These are drastic measures, but the law should be enforced or it should be repealed; and in so far as in me lies I shall continue, as I have hitherto done, to exert my whole power as Governor, and leave no stone unturned to see that everybody complies with its requirements. If you give me the power I will use it with the best discretion I possess, and stop the sale of whiskey, as far as may be possible, except through the legitimate channels. If you feel inclined to go so far, then I am still ready to do the best I can. The smaller municipalities are at present at considerable expense in maintaining their local police forces. With a provision by which the counties and the State would bear a proportionate share of this expense on condition that the law is rigidly enforced, the number of constables would be reduced to a minimum, and a dozen or so fearless and energetic officers could look after the railroads, the illicit stills and peddlers.

One more suggestion and I shall leave this subject. Under the provisions of the act, as it now is, the election of dispensers in a municipality requires a petition signed by a

MAJORITY OF THE FREEHOLD VOTERS.

and no county or town now "dry" by statute can have one. There are in the State six counties where the sale of liquor is thus prohibited: Oconee, Pickens, Marlboro, Marion, Horry and Williamsburg. These, of course, have no dispensary, and their citizens are left under the law to obtain their liquor—whether used for medicine or otherwise—wine for the sacrament in church, and the alcohol for compounding physicians' prescriptions, as best they may. Law-abiding citizens have been put to great inconvenience by this, and such a condition is a premium on the illicit sale and almost precludes obedience to the law. I would not urge you to force a dispensary on any community to which it is objectionable, but if the majority of the voters of a county shall decide in an election held for the purpose that they do not want provision made for them to get liquors in a legitimate way and for a legitimate use, then provision should be made by which the enforcement of the law in such county shall be paid for by a tax levied on the people of that county. If they want prohibition, let them have it in fact and not in name only. My observation and experience with men teach me that it is idle to expect any elective officer to enforce this or any other prohibitory statute. Such men want votes, and will not make enemies if they can help it. It will be necessary then to leave such counties to enforce the law of their own volition and through their own instrumentalities, which means a failure to enforce it at all; or to have the State constables do it, and it would be unfair to have the revenue which is derived from the other counties devoted to such a purpose.

In regard to the provision requiring a majority of the freehold voters to sign a petition for the appointment of a dispenser, it is both unjust and unreasonable. Some of the present dispensers appointed under this requirement are incompetent, and in some cases they are not fit persons to fill so responsible a position. I think a provision allowing the county board to establish a dispensary at such point or points in a county as will put the people to the least trouble in securing what whiskey they need for legitimate purposes should be incorporated in the amended act. A dispensary need not be located in a town, because it is conducted on an entirely different footing to the old saloon. I would not have dispensaries multiplied to the degree that would encourage the consumption of whiskey by the ease of obtaining it, but the law rests upon the idea that it is the proper thing to supply what the people want for their legitimate use in the least harmful way; and the absence of a dispensary, or its inaccessibility by reason of great distance, places a premium on the establishment of an illegal traffic. If men will have it, the State should supply it; but if the State does this in a way to cause too much trouble and expense, then others will step in and furnish it. One thing is very certain: the people of a county should not be put to the expense and trouble of getting whiskey in other counties, or patronizing illicit sellers at home, because of opposition to the law in the towns and the refusal to sign petitions for the establishment of a dispensary.

Educational Institutions.

The reports of the various boards of trustees charged with the control of these institutions show the condition of the State's institutions devoted to higher education. The Citadel is performing the work which it undertakes to do in its usual satisfactory manner. Clemson College has been completed and partially equipped, and opened in July last with over 400 boys, and there is promise that at its next session it will be filled to overflowing and many will have to be turned away. At the South Carolina College, alone of the schools which are running, the attendance is unsatisfactory. Materially, as to plant and buildings in general, the college is in better condition than it has

been for half a century. The corps of professors is an able one, and they are performing their work with accustomed satisfaction; but, for the causes which were set forth in my last annual message, the boys continue to go elsewhere. Yet I have every reason to believe that low water mark has been reached, and that the college in the future will attract a larger and larger number of students, so that the attendance will reach a satisfactory average in one or two more years.

There are two changes which suggest themselves to me as desirable, and I submit them for your consideration. One is that the trustees shall be instructed to provide for the admission of women to the advantages of the school; and the other is that provision be made for normal training—the preparation of male teachers to supply the ever increasing demand of our public schools for men properly trained in educational work. The education given women in the various female colleges of the State is, at best, imperfect, and would only admit them, after graduation, to the junior class of the South Carolina College; and the admission of women to the advantages offered by this college is but a matter of justice and common sense in keeping with the spirit of the age. There are some mutterings of discontent about the expense attending the maintenance of the South Carolina College, and this is occasioned wholly by the small attendance. I feel sure, however, that the members of the General Assembly are too enlightened to have any sympathy with the demand, which comes from some quarters, that the appropriation be cut off. The school is a century old. With its past are linked the names of many of Carolina's bravest, brightest and best men; and upon its maintenance depends the future standard of higher learning in the State. We cannot afford to take any step backward in education; nor can we lower that standard. State pride, regard for the pledges of the Reform movement—everything which should influence those who now guide the destinies of the State, point at this rather to the wisdom of searching for the diseases which may cause the sickly condition of the school, and applying the remedy, than taking advantage of that unhealthy condition to strike it down, and thus remove a landmark which always has been and should continue to be the pride of every true Carolinian.

Of the South Carolina Industrial and Winthrop Normal College, which has been located at Rock Hill, after a lively competition between that city, Spartanburg and Chester, I will only say that, remembering the demand for similar institution for boys at Clemson, the board of trustees are planning for a duplication of that school. The amount of money paid by the people of that thriving and ambitious little city, \$60,000, will be expended in the erection of the main college building, which will afford class rooms for at least 600 girls; and we hope to have the building completed and ready for use by the first of September next. It is unnecessary to remind you that the condition of the people and the State's finances preclude the possibility of any appropriation to this girl's college from taxation at this time; but the college building proper can never be filled, and the advantages of the school offered to the girls of the State on conditions similar to those which obtain at Clemson, unless dormitories are supplied. It is altogether to be expected that there will be as great attendance at this girl's college as at Clemson College, if like inducements are offered; but this will be impossible without dormitories, and it is even doubtful if board can be obtained in the town for one-half of those the college is designed to receive. It is estimated that the equipment of a dormitory sufficiently large to accommodate 400 to 500 girls would cost \$50,000. If the two buildings are erected together, and convict labor be utilized, as is being done, it will be much cheaper than to wait, and I think we can build and equip a sufficiently large dormitory, open the college next October and run it until the Legislature meets again, for that sum of money.

I would therefore recommend and urge that you appropriate for this purpose from the earnings of the State dispensary such a sum of money, to be available after the \$50,000 appropriated last year to the dispensary has been repaid to the treasury. If the dispensary does not make it, then no harm will have been done. I make this recommendation with great earnestness for the reason that having been the first Governor of the State to advocate a college for our women, it will be a matter of intense gratification to me if, before I retire from office, I can see the twin colleges, Clemson and Winthrop, with 600 students each, realizing that which first gave rise to the farmers' movement, inspired it with courage and carried it to victory—the demand for cheap and practical education for the boys and girls of the State.

There only remains to be mentioned the Cedar Spring Institute—the school for the deaf, dumb and blind—which has been managed with the usual good sense and judgment characterizing the institution, and merits a continuance of your fostering care.

Sea Island Sufferers.

The 25th of August last witnessed the most disastrous storm and tidal wave on the coast from Beaufort to Charleston of which our annals have any record. The exact number of lives lost is unknown, but it was considerably over a thousand, and there was a total loss of crops on the more exposed islands. All the way from John's Island to Hilton Head, over one-half of the houses were also blown down or washed away, and the unfortunate people would have long since succumbed to starvation, but for the timely assistance and charity rendered by our own people and those living abroad. The management of the work of relief was taken in hand by local committees, but believing that methodical business arrangement and experience were better, Miss Clara Barton of the Red Cross association, with her lieutenants, was asked to take charge of it and this noble lady with her corps of assistants has been on the ground since the 20th of September, laboring in the cause of humanity. The extent of the disaster cannot be understood except by personal inspection. The question of relief and how best to administer it is a difficult one; even the amount absolutely necessary to prevent starvation is unknown. Although the State is poor and the crops everywhere a failure, it is not the will of the people of South Carolina that any of her citizens, no matter how humble they may be—even the poorest negroes—should starve, and when you send your committee to investigate the phosphate industry at Beaufort, as recommended by the phosphate